

TELIDON REPORTS

No.1 February 1980



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Department of Communications

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Welcome to the first issue of the Telidon Newsletter! It is intended to help keep those interested in Telidon informed about significant developments. We intend that the newsletter be published every two months. It is available on request from: Telidon Reports, DOC-DGSRP, Room 2000 - Journal Tower South, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8.

Those who have access to a Telidon terminal can also read the newsletter in Telidon format by dialling (to be announced).

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Any one who has information on Telidon which they would like to share is invited to contact the editor, who would also be interested in receiving your comments.

We hope you find the newsletter helpful.

CVCC MEETS

The first meeting of the Canadian Videotex Consultative Committee (CVCC) was held at the Conference Centre in Ottawa on November 15th and 16th, 1979. Twenty-seven persons from the private and public sector (broadcasting, cable, telecommunications, manufacturing, consumers, publishing, and government) met for two days to provide advice to the Deputy Minister, Department of Communications (DOC) on all aspects of videotex development in Canada. The meetings were chaired by Douglas F. Parkhill, Assistant Deputy Minister, Research, DOC.

The committee having debated and adopted its terms of reference, then proceeded to establish five sub-committees.

Standards - Being chaired by R.M. Bennett, Director, Network Development, National Telecommunications Branch, DOC. Terms of reference have already been prepared.

Education - Terms being drafted by P. Bowers and G. Haslam.

Individuals and Society- Terms being drafted by A. Cameron, A. Cordell, M. Brechin and T. Ide

Legal - Terms being drafted by G. Fierheller.

Marketing/Industrial Strategy - Terms being drafted by D. Carlisle and D. Cunningham.

Much of the first day was spent sharing information. John C. Madden, Director General, Special Research Programs, DOC, who is responsible for the Telidon project, gave a demonstration of the system, and reported on the current state of the project. Many of the companies involved in field trials reported on their activities, as did manufacturers, and those involved with providing information. The resulting discussions were most beneficial to all concerned.

Among the decisions made by the committee were the following:

- the possibility of a joint purchase for Canada of British Prestel evaluations, results and studies will be pursued;
- a two-year technical freeze on terminal design changes was agreed to so that field trials could move forward with a minimum of disruption;
- investigations would continue about the possibility of having a videotex conference in Canada late next year;
- P. Bowers will prepare a position

paper (with volunteered assistance from staff at Communications Research Centre) on captioning for the deaf on television;

- K. Glegg will co-ordinate a presentation on Telidon to the Board of the Canadian Patents and Development Ltd.;
- the next meeting of the committee will be on March 31/April 1980.

In the course of the meeting, it was announced that:

- licencing of the host CPU software will be done through Canadian Patents and Development Ltd., starting early in the new year.
- plans are being developed to establish the federal government as an information provider contributing to the projected field trials in a coordinated manner;
- a less sophisticated and much less expensive Information Provider System which will permit most common text-oriented terminals to be used for Telidon page creation was being developed and would be available by mid-December (see separate story in this issue);
- this newsletter was being developed as a regular vehicle for information sharing for those involved with Telidon.

Those in attendance included:

G. Anderson, Manitoba Telephone Systems; P. Bowers, Ontario Educational Communications Authority; M. Brechin; L. Brunel, (Vice-chairman) Université du Québec; A. Cameron, University of New Brunswick; D. Carlisle, Infomart; J. Coleman, CTV Television Network, Ltd.; A. Cordell, Science Council of Canada; D. Cruickshank, Canadian

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Telecommunications Carriers Association;
D. Cunningham, President, CATA;
A. DesRoches, La Presse; G. Fierheller,
Premier Cablevision; J. Fraser, Bell
Canada; K. Glegg, National Research
Council; K. Hancock, Canadian Cable
Television Association; G. Haslam,
VISAPAC; D. Hughes, BC Telephone;
T.R. Ide, (Vice-chairman) Information
and Communications Technology; R. Jauvin
(representing A. Chagnon), Telecable-
Videotron; D. Mallet-Paret, Alberta
Government Telephones; E. Morrison,
(representing L. Webster) Northern
Telecom Canada Ltd.; M. Norton, Norpak
Ltd.; D.F. Parkhill, (Chairman)
Department of Communications;
D. Quarterman, Department of Industry,
Trade and Commerce.

VISPAC FORMED

On November 26, 1979 the Videotex
Information Service Providers
Association of Canada (VISPAC)
officially came into being at a meeting
of prospective information providers in
Toronto. The organization was formed in
order to promote the use of videotex
systems and to represent the common
interests of its members. It is
expected that the organization will take
a strong position with respect to
standardization of picture description
formats to promote interchangeability of
data. The issue of standards of conduct
for preparation and distribution of
information was also on the agenda.

The first executive is:

Mr. G. Haslam (Southam - Toronto) -
President; Mr. Adrien Powell (Manitoba
Telephone System - Winnipeg) -
Vice-president; Mr. Ross Brown
(Tele-Direct - Montreal) - Treasurer;
Mr. Levencrowm (Barrister - Ottawa) -
Secretary;

The Council Members are:

Mr. D'Arcy Delamere (Global Travel

Computer Services Ltd. - Toronto);
Mr. Jean Fortier (Le Soleil - Quebec);
Mr. David Cortens (Canadian Home
Information Services Inc. - Winnipeg);
Mr. Rex C. Schofield (Dominion Directory
Co. Ltd. - Vancouver).

For additional information contact:
Leonard Levencrowm, Suite 1403, 130
Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario; K1P 5G4
Tel.: (613) 236-4756.

LOW COST INFORMATION PROVIDER SYSTEMS

Although other information provider
systems are under development, currently
the only Telidon information provider
system available is a stand alone unit
incorporating its own minicomputer.
These units, now much improved over
earlier development models, permit the
rapid creation of Telidon frames, but,
in large measure because of the
incorporation of a separate micro-
processor and floppy disc unit, they are
relatively expensive (about \$30,000
each).

The Image Communications Group at the
Communications Research Centre has
recently developed software which
permits most ordinary text oriented
computer terminals (as well as Telidon
user terminals equipped with a full
keyboard) to be used for Telidon page
creation when connected to a remote
computer. The program is aimed
primarily towards those wishing to
create pages of text - graphics creation
is possible but relatively slow and
clumsy. However it is possible to
create the graphics separately on the
more sophisticated terminal and merge
the graphics and text portions of the
frame.

Although almost any computer terminal
can be used, the software will probably
operate most conveniently in conjunction
with a Telidon user terminal, since the
page created can then be immediately
displayed to view the results.

The software listings and documentation will be available. Contact Editor, TELIDON REPORTS for more information.

AUTOMATED INPUT SYSTEM BEING DEVELOPED

Bob Baser, Project Leader Data Base Development, Image Communications Group at DOC's Communications Research Centre is working with Broadcast News to develop an automated input entry system into the Telidon data base. Ordinarily material is input into the database by first keying it into a mini-computer, and then transferring it to the demonstration computer. Obviously this takes time.

The new system permits computer generated data, transmitted in Baudot code from Toronto (Broadcast News) and Montreal (Les Nouvelles Télé-Radio), to be entered directly into the host computer. Within minutes the data are categorized, formatted, and entered into the appropriate page in the Telidon data base.

The present operational version can be seen on the Telidon Demonstration System. Refinements are ongoing. In its final configuration it will be possible to get up-to-the-minute reports from these sources on a 24-hour basis. Followers of all fast breaking news stories will appreciate this feature. Sports fans especially should be well served by this feature.

A preliminary version of this software was demonstrated at Telecom 79 in Geneva. The finished package will be available under licence to Canadian companies from Canada Patents and Developments Ltd.

TELECOM '79

"Telidon was one of the most popular exhibits at Telecom '79" declared John Madden upon his return from that prestigious international exposition

held in Geneva in September. Representatives from over 150 countries as well as thousands of Swiss citizens viewed the Department of Communication's exhibit at the massive six day exposition which was organized by the International Telecommunication Union. Many of the representatives were senior government, industry, and telecommunications officials attending the World Radiocommunications Administrative Conference.

To demonstrate Telidon an interactive telecommunication link was established between DOC's Communications Research Centre at Shirley Bay (outside of Ottawa) and the exposition hall in Geneva, Switzerland. The system used Canadian microwave facilities and a Teleglobe Canada bidirectional transatlantic cable for transmission. The Telidon demonstration data base stored in a DEC PDP 11/60 computer at Shirley Bay was displayed in Geneva on three Electrohome television sets using the Norpak manufactured terminals and keypads and Gandalf supplied multiplexer and modem.

"The Telidon demonstration was very popular" declared Dr. Madden. "All those who became involved were impressed with the sophistication of the Telidon display system as well as the ease and speed of operation of the Telidon input system." "Telidon is now recognized as the quality videotex system", he added.

TELIDON PRESENTATION IN STOCKHOLM

Immediately after Telecom '79 Andy Tenne-Sens took a side trip to Stockholm to give a presentation on Telidon at a press conference announcing the publication of the report of the Swedish Commission on New Information Technology. With the help of staff from the Canadian Embassy Mr. Tenne-Sens set up a video-cassette unit and monitor in the conference auditorium of the Swedish "Televerket" (telephone company) on

September 28, 1979. Three other videotex systems (all first-generation) were also involved in the press conference.

TELIDON: SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Available free from Information Services, Department of Communications, 300 Slater Street, OTTAWA, Ontario, K1A 0C8. Tel.: (613) 995-8185.

1. TELIDON, 17 page glossy brochure. Issued by DOC, 1979.

Available free from Directorate of Data Systems, Communications Research Centre, Department of Communications, P.O. Box 11490, Station "H", Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 8S2.

1. A General Description of TELIDON: A Canadian Proposal for Videotex Systems, by H.G. Bown, et al., CRC Technical Note No. 697-E, Ottawa, Department of Communications, December 1978, 26 pages.
2. Picture Description Instructions (PDI) for the TELIDON Videotex System, by H.G. Bown, et al., CRC Technical Note 699-E., Ottawa, Department of Communications, April 1979, 89 pages.

Available free from Publications Office, Science Council of Canada, 100 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5M1. Tel.: (613) 992-1142.

1. A Scenario for the Implementation of Interactive Computer Communications Systems in the Home. A position paper of the Science Council Committee on Communications and Computers, Ottawa, Science Council, July 1979, 40 pages.

Available from the Department of Supply and Services, 45 Sacre Coeur Blvd, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S7.

1. Telecommunications and Canada, Consultative Committee on the Implications of Telecommunications for Canadian Sovereignty (Clyne Committee), Ottawa, Minister of Supply and Services, March 1979, 98 pages. Cost: \$3.95 Cat. No. C021-5/1979.
2. Videotex in Canada, by John C. Madden. Based on a paper prepared for a Delta Project seminar held in Toronto on May 8, 1979 and sponsored by The Gamma Group of McGill University and the Université de Montréal. (Ottawa, Department of Communications, 1979) 32 pages. Cost: \$1.95, outside Canada: \$2.35 Cat. No. C022-22/1979.

Available free from NORPAK Limited, PAKENHAM, Ontario, KOA 2X0. Tel.: (613) 624-5555.

1. NORPAK TELIDON, 8 page glossy brochure.
2. TELIDON (Mark I) NORPAK Product Brief, 4 page glossy brochure describing the terminal controller, video picture memory and teletext interface units.

La version française de ce bulletin peut être obtenue auprès de la DGPRS du MDC pièce 2000, Tour Journal Sud, 300, rue Slater, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C8.

As of
January 1980

TELIDON FIELD TRIALS

<u>Estimated Start</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Number of Terminals</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Early 1980	Throughout Ontario	55	Broadcast and telephone	Dr. M. Cioni, <u>TELIDON PROJECT</u> , Ontario Educational Communications Authority, P.O. Box 200, Station "Q", TORONTO, Ontario, M4T 2T1. (416) 484-2930
Early 1980	South Headingley, Manitoba	37	Cable	Mr. T. Phillips, <u>PROJECT IDA</u> , Manitoba Telephone System, Area B 301, P.O. Box 6666, WINNIPEG, Manitoba, R3C 3V6. (204) 947-8479
Mid-1980	Calgary, Alberta	120	Dedicated wire pair	Mr. D. Klappstein, <u>PROJECT VIDON</u> , Alberta Government Telephones, Floor 30 F, 10020-100 Street, EDMONTON, Alberta, T5J 0N5. (403) 425-3688
Fall 1980	St. John, New Brunswick	20	Dedicated cable pair	Mr. A.C. Pendleton, <u>PROJECT MERCURY</u> , Project Manager, Advanced Services, New Brunswick Telephone Company, P.O. Box 1430, ST. JOHN, New Brunswick, E2L 4K2. (506) 693-6719
January 1981	Toronto, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec	1,000	Telephone	Mr. J. Campbell, <u>PROJECT VISTA</u> , Bell Canada, 5th floor, 25 Eddy Street, HULL, Quebec, J8Y 6N4. (819) 776-7633
Early 1981	Montréal, Quebec	250 (by 1982)	Cable	Mr. Jean-Charles Dagenais, télécâble vidéotron, 3700, boul. Losch, SAINT HUBERT, Québec, J3Y 5T6. (514) 656-2111
Mid-1981	Elie, Manitoba	150	Optical fibre	Mr. T. Phillips, <u>ELIE PROJECT</u> , Manitoba Telephone System, Area B 301, P.O. Box 6666, WINNIPEG, Manitoba, R3C 3V6. (204) 947-8479

For information related to the Department of Communications,
please contact:

Andy Tenne-Sens, Manager, Applications Support, Special
Research Programs, Room 2006, Journal Tower South,
300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario. KIA 0C8. (613) 996-4243



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